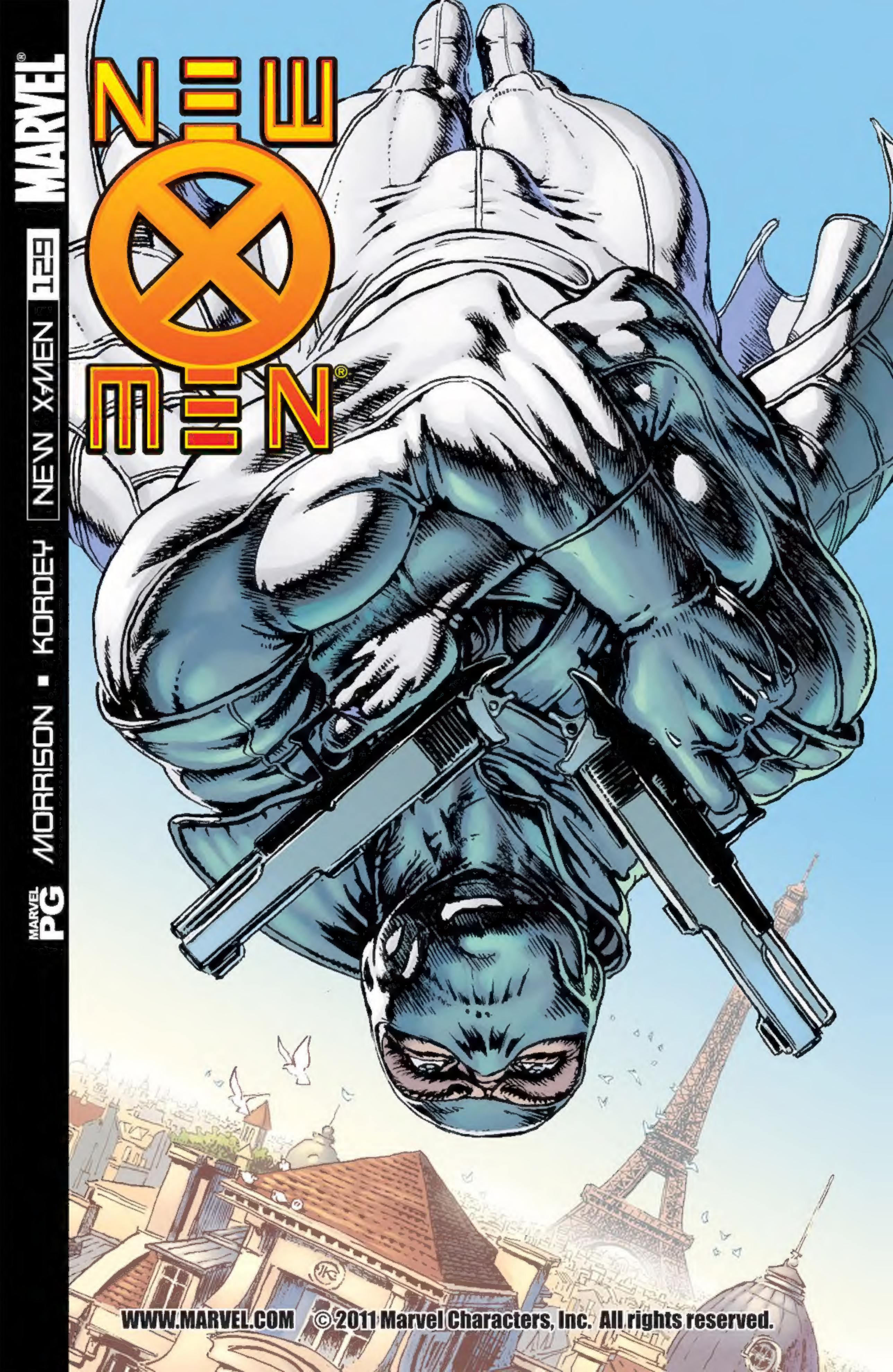
NEW X-MEN®
MARVEL
129
NEW X-MEN
KORDEY
MORRISON
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STAN LEE presents the NEW X-MEN in:

Fantomex

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RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT'S SAIDA TEMOFONTE! letters
DAVE McCAIG colors
MIKE RAICHT assistant editor
MIKE MARTS editor
JOE QUESADA chief
BILL JEMAS president

YOU ARE SURROUNDED!

WE WILL NOT HESITATE TO FIRE!

X-CORPORATION HEADQUARTERS, PARIS

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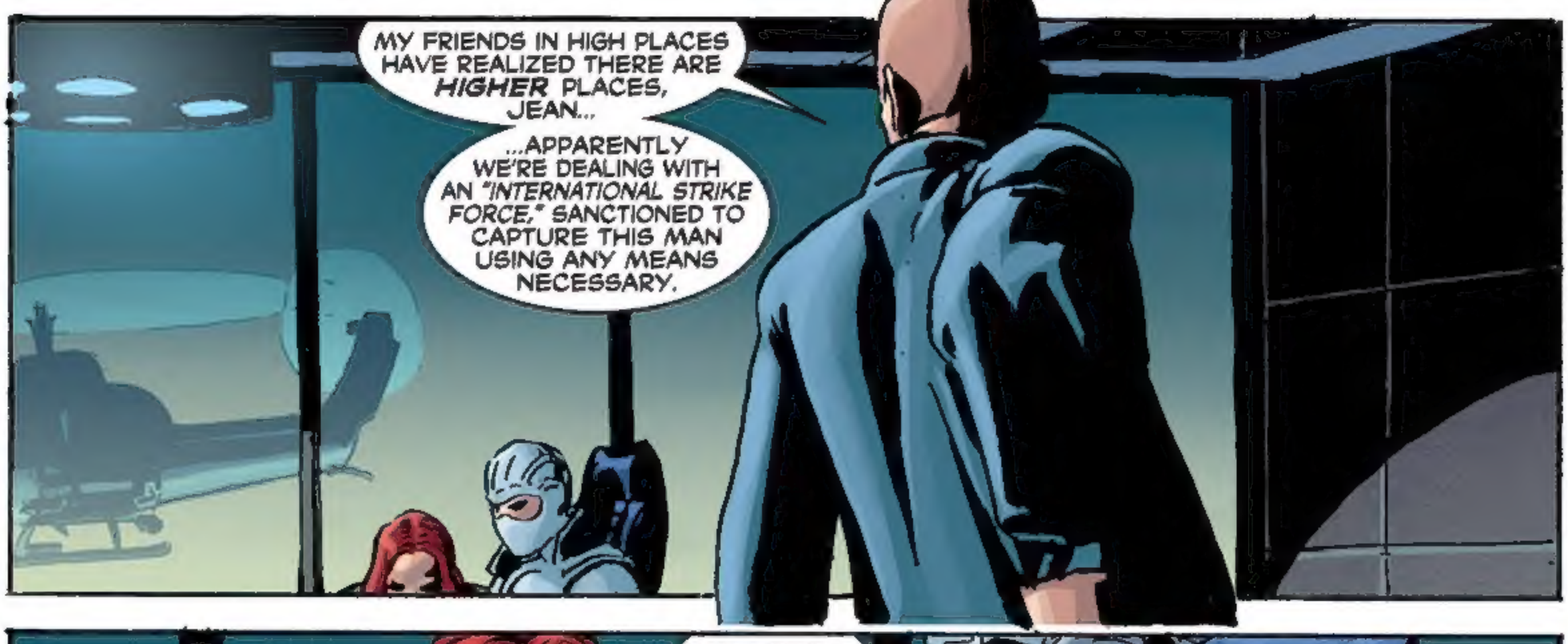
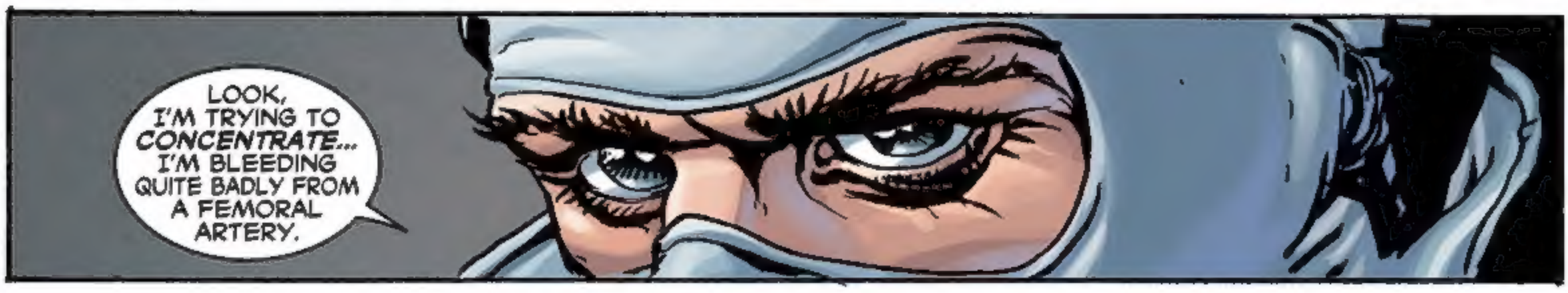
HAND OVER THE TERRORIST FANTOMEX!
YES, PIERRE...
...I'M SURE YOU AND EVERYONE ELSE IN THE EIGHTEENTH ARRONDISSEMENT HEARD THAT...
WELL, THEY'RE PRACTICALLY HOLDING MY STAFF HOSTAGE DOWNSTAIRS.
YES... "FANTOMEX"... THE MAN WHO'S BLEEDING ALL OVER MY FLOOR?
I REALIZE THAT... IT'S BECOMING VERY CLEAR THAT HE'S THE MOST WANTED MUTANT IN EUROPE, BELIEVE ME, BUT THAT DOESN'T JUSTIFY...
...THE XAVIER CORPORATION WILL NOT HAND OVER A BADLY WOUNDED MAN WITHOUT A BETTER EXPLANATION THAN "HE'S DANGEROUS AND MUST BE DESTROYED..."
I SEE.
THANK YOU FOR TRYING, PIERRE.


MY FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES HAVE REALIZED THERE ARE *HIGHER* PLACES, JEAN...
...APPARENTLY WE'RE DEALING WITH AN *"INTERNATIONAL STRIKE FORCE,"* SANCTIONED TO CAPTURE THIS MAN USING ANY MEANS NECESSARY.

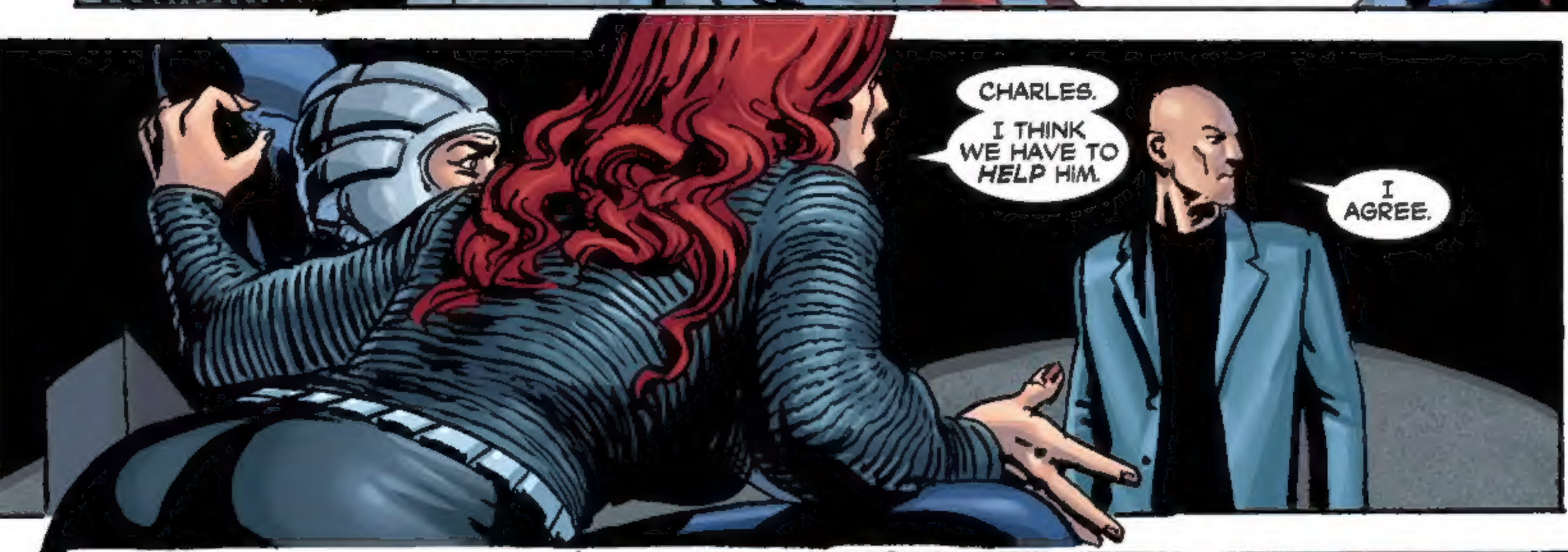
SANCTUARY... THAT'S ALL I WANT.
A MOMENT TO CATCH MY BREATH.
WHY DO THEY *WANT* YOU SO MUCH?
YOU KILL PEOPLE? YOU STEAL...? IT'S ALL *FUZZ* WHERE YOUR THOUGHTS SHOULD BE...


LOOK, I'M TRYING TO *CONCENTRATE...* I'M BLEEDING QUITE BADLY FROM A FEMORAL ARTERY.

?

STOPPED.

HOW ARE YOU DOING THAT?
TELEKINESIS...
...I CAN MAKE YOUR BLOOD CLOT BY THINKING ABOUT IT.


CHARLES.
I THINK WE HAVE TO HELP HIM.
I AGREE.

I'M ALREADY PLANTING DOUBTS IN THE PILOTS' MINDS.
ONE BOY IS WORRIED ABOUT HIS PROMOTION SUDDENLY... SWEATING... HEART BEATING FASTER...

...ANOTHER IS BECOMING AFRAID THAT HIS COLLECTION OF MUTANT PORNOGRAPHY MIGHT BE FOUND BY HIS WIFE.
THEY'RE NO LONGER SURE WHAT THEIR ORDERS WERE IN THE FIRST PLACE...

FORGET THIS MIND STUFF.
THEY'LL SWITCH TO ROBOT TARGETING AND LAUNCH SYSTEMS.
OKAY.
I'LL SEE IF I CAN THINK MY WAY INTO THE COMPUTER SYSTEM...

NO.
PLEASE KEEP YOUR MIND ON MY BLOOD FLOW.
I'LL HANDLE THIS.
I HAVE SPECIAL POWERS, TOO, YOU KNOW.
JUST LET ME CALL MY PARTNER.
SOMETHING'S HAPPENING UP THERE ON THE...
WOH!

THE GUYS IN THE CHOPPERS ARE SPACING OUT!
YEAH, WELL THEY GOT TELEPATHS EVERYWHERE.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF THESE ARE MY OWN THOUGHTS...
...WE NEED A VOLUNTEER WITH NO MIND OF HIS OWN WORTH CONTROLLING!

ME, SIR!
CORPORAL ANIMAL, SIR!

I'M A HIGHLY-TRAINED DEATH MACHINE WITH NO HUMAN FEELINGS!
SIR!
THANK THE LORD AND THE MARINE CORPS ABOVE FOR THAT.
DO YOUR DUTY, ANIMAL.

SEE, IT'S ALL MISDIRECTION.
THEY LOOK AT THE SMOKE AND THE LIGHTS.
BUT THEY DON'T SEE WHAT YOU'RE REALLY...
...DOING.
NOW I GUESS YOU'RE WONDERING WHO I MIGHT BE.
WELL, LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT THAT.
I AM YOUR DEATH IN HUMAN FORM.
I'M SURE ANY ONE OF US CAN HANDLE THIS MORON.
LAST CHANCE FOR THE PACIFIST LOBBY BEFORE I BLOW HIM AWAY...

LOOK, I HAVE A LUNCH DATE WITH A VERY FAMOUS FRENCH FILM STAR...
...ARE YOU GOING TO POINT THAT GUN AT ME ALL DAY?
SHUT UP.
I REALLY HATE FRENCH MOVIES.

AH... WE FOUND ANIMAL UP HERE.
HE DON'T LOOK RIGHT.

THIS IS WACK!
ANY RESULTS UPSTAIRS?
GUYS?

ANIMAL?

WHEN... WHEN MY DADDY DIED, I WAS TOO YOUNG TO MAKE SENSE OF IT.
I WAS JUST FOUR.

WHEN YOU'RE A KID YOU GOT NO PLACE TO PUT THOSE BIG OLD FEELINGS SO I KINDA STORED UP ALL THE RESENTMENT ABOUT LOSING MY DAD RIGHT IN MY CHEST HERE.
AND I TRIED TO BE LIKE HIM. TO TAKE HIS PLACE, I GUESS.
I MADE MYSELF STRONG AND TOUGH, SO THE WORLD COULDN'T HURT ME NONE, BUT...

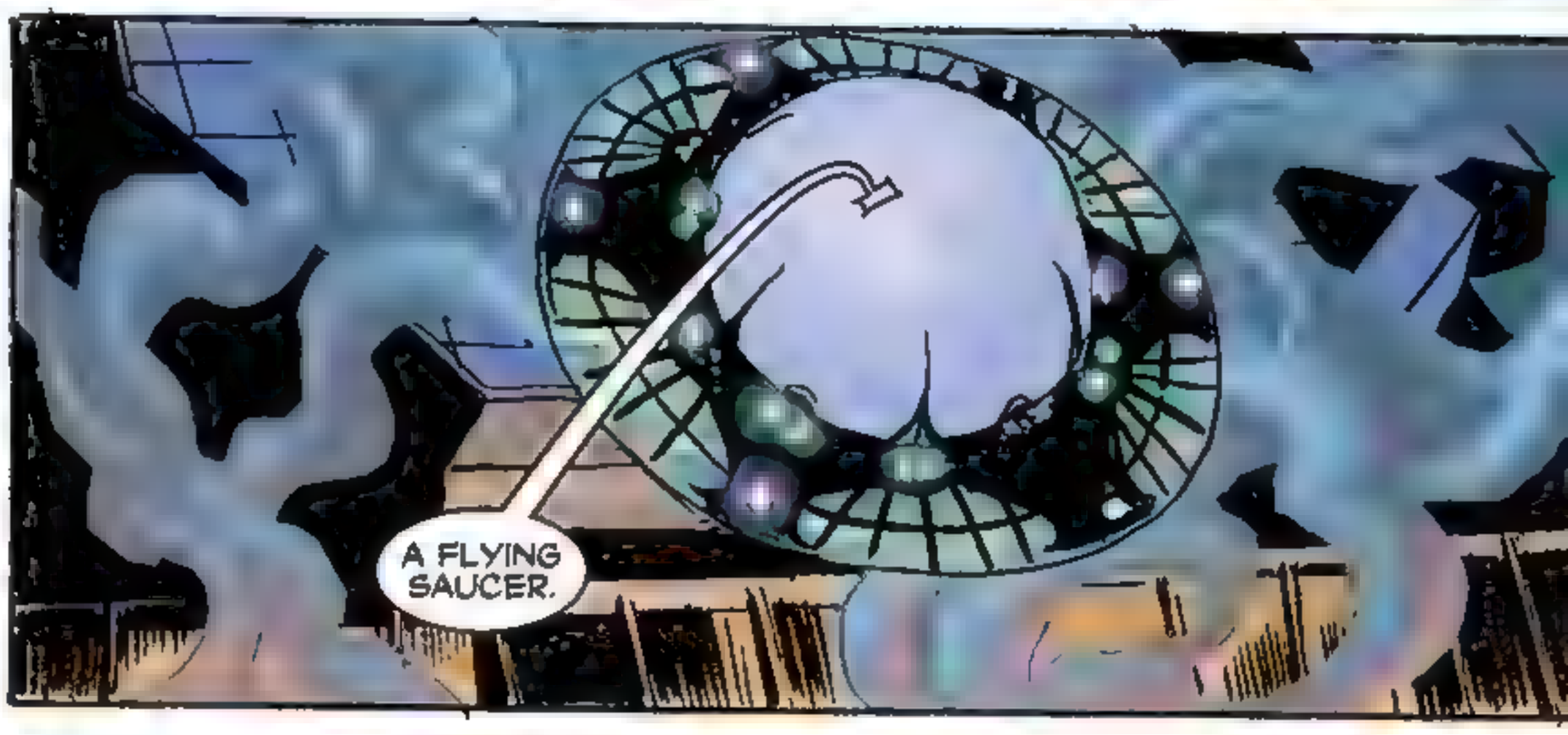
...BUT IT'S BEEN HARD TO FEEL MUCH THROUGH ALL THAT PROTECTION AND I ALWAYS FOUND IT REALLY KINDA DIFFICULT TO... TO MAKE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS WORK...
...IT'S LIKE THIS BIG... SHIELD AROUND MY HEART, SEE?

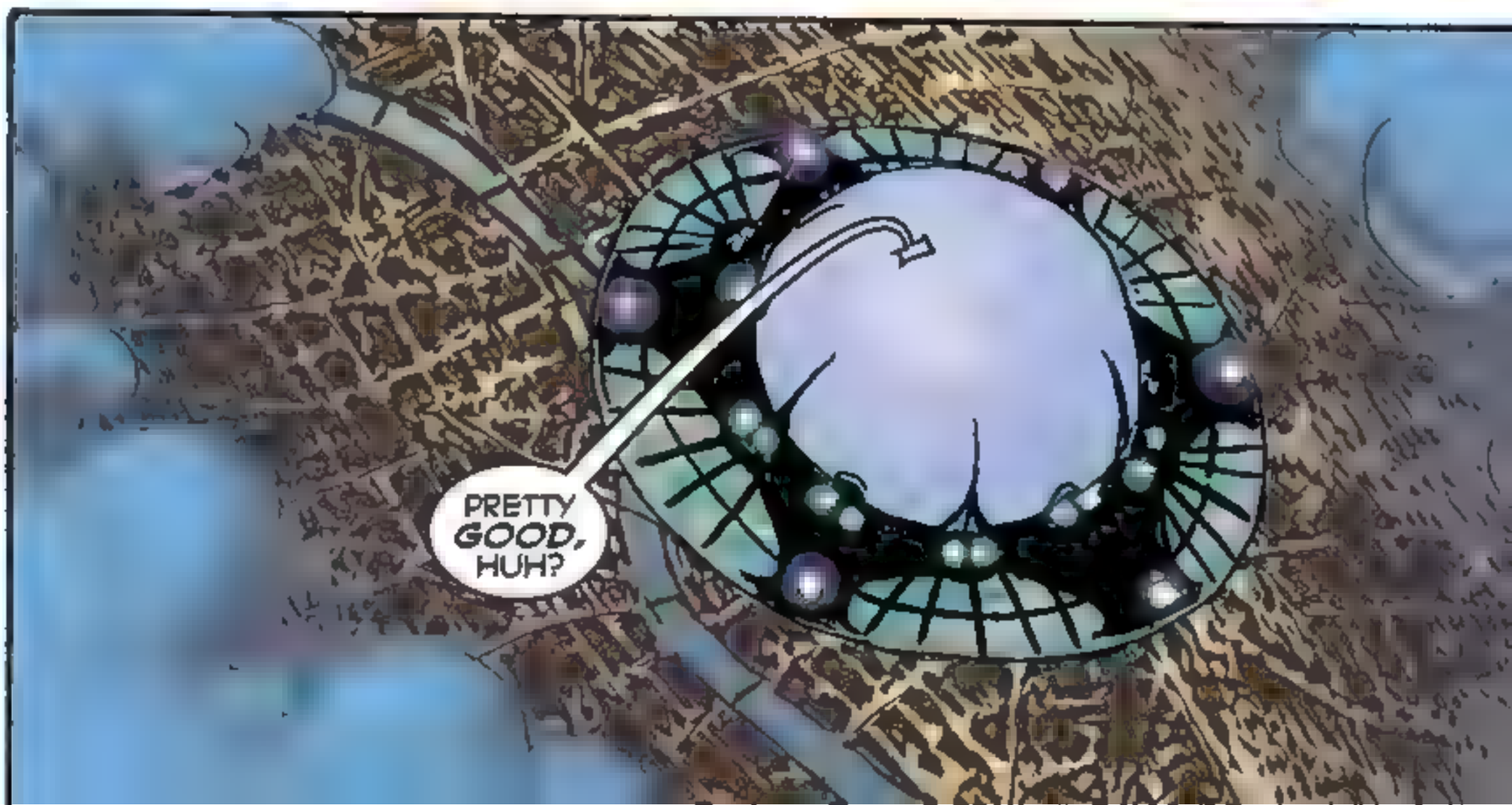
I GOT THIS FEELING I NEED TO RECONSIDER MY LIFE WITH THE MILITARY.
MAYBE I'D BE BETTER WORKING WITH HANDICAPPED KIDS OR SOMETHING.
JEEZ.
WHAT THE HELL THEY DO TO YOU, ANIMAL?

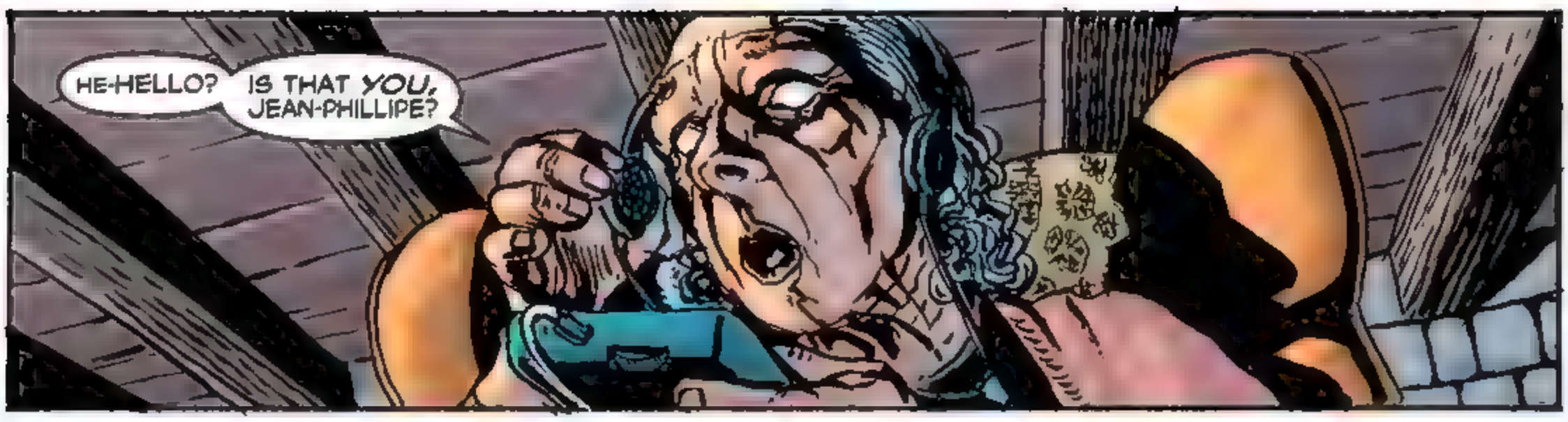
NICE TRICK.

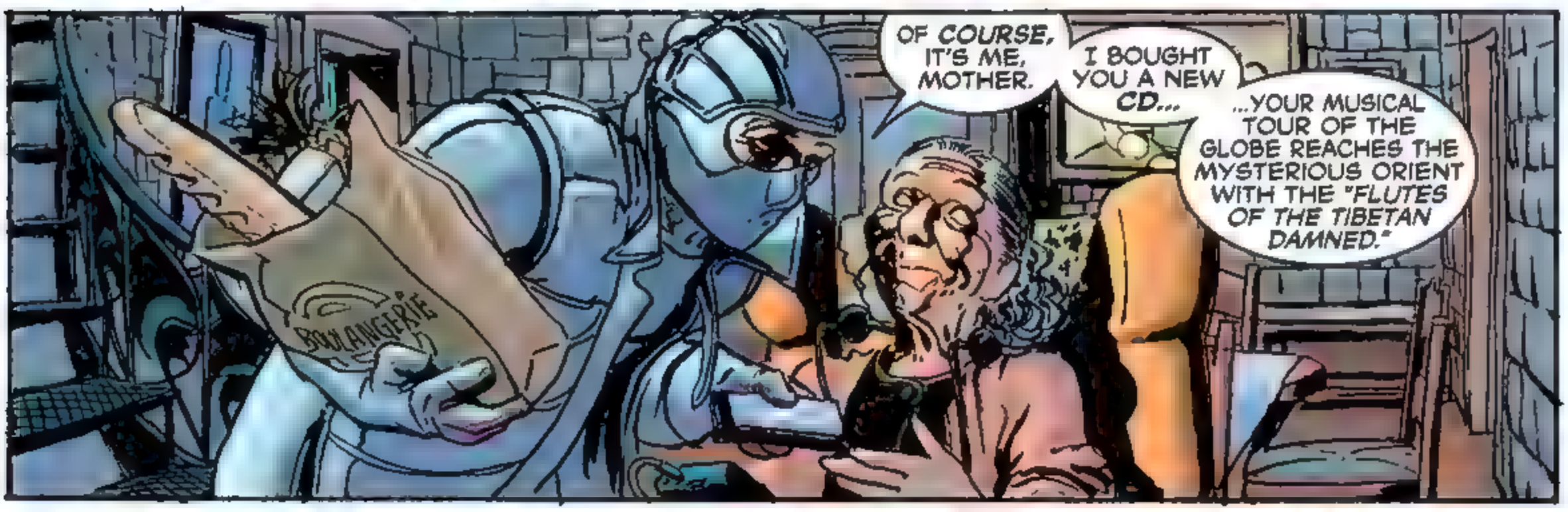
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF *MINE?*

MEET *E.V.A.*— MY PARTNER.

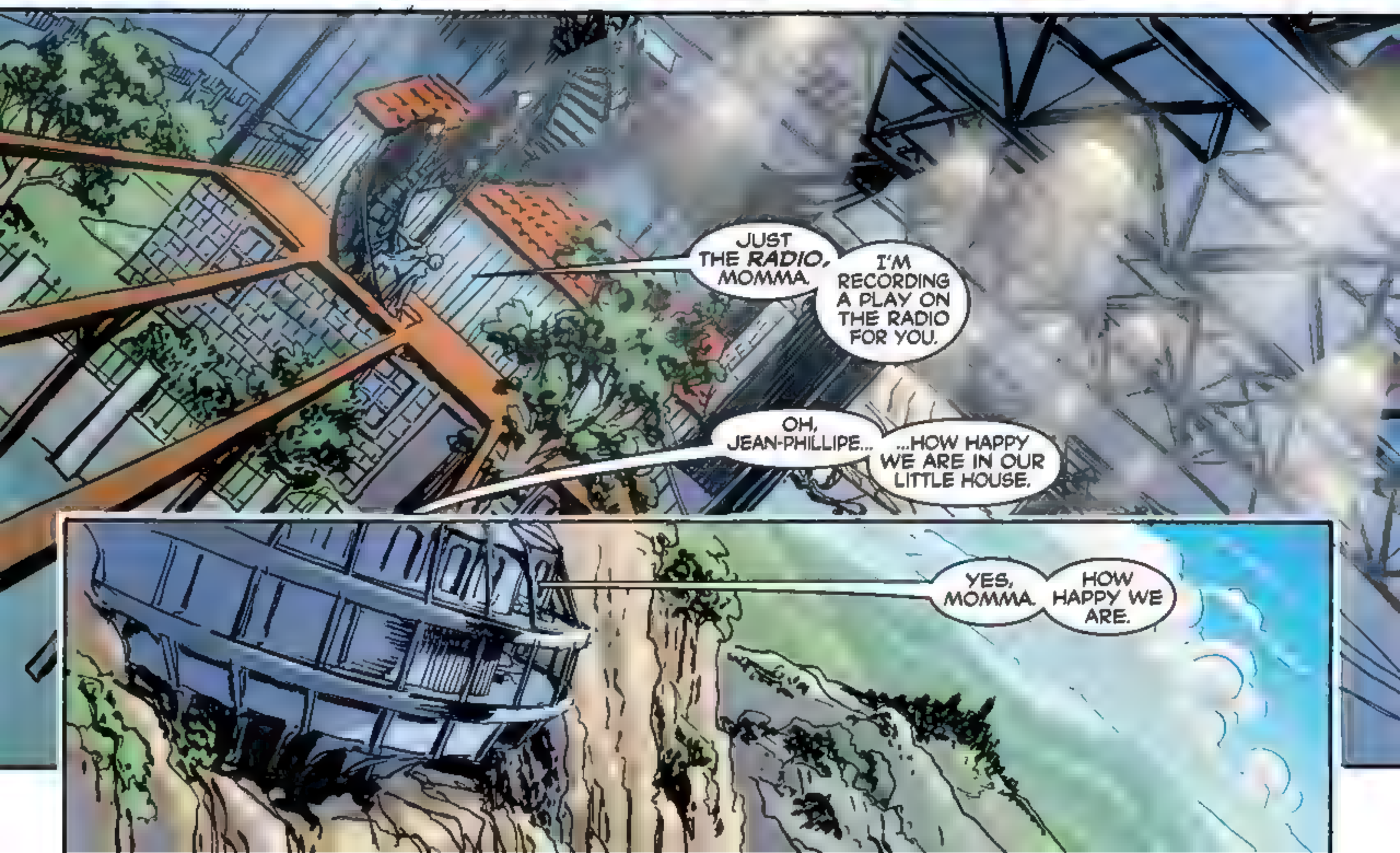




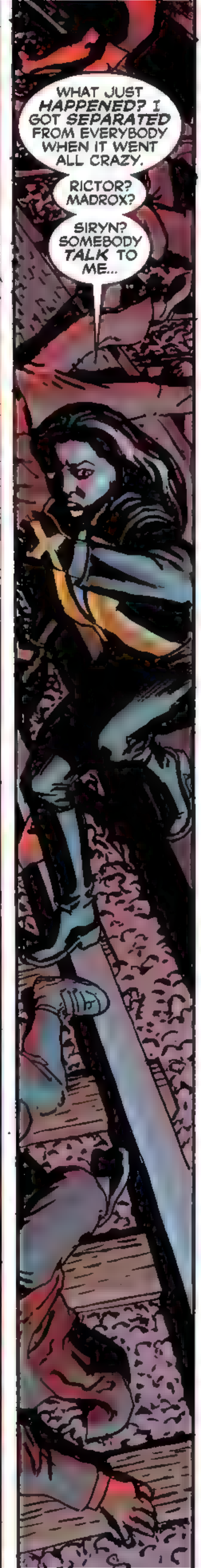

HE-HELLO?
IS THAT YOU, JEAN-PHILLIPE?


OF COURSE, IT'S ME, MOTHER.
I BOUGHT YOU A NEW CD...
...YOUR MUSICAL TOUR OF THE GLOBE REACHES THE MYSTERIOUS ORIENT WITH THE "FLUTES OF THE TIBETAN DAMNED."
BOULANGERIE

SLEEVES NOTES IN FRENCH BRAILLE.
YOU KNOW I ALWAYS TAKE CARE OF YOU, MOMMA.
ARE THERE PEOPLE WITH YOU?


JUST THE RADIO, MOMMA.
I'M RECORDING A PLAY ON THE RADIO FOR YOU.
OH, JEAN-PHILLIPE...
...HOW HAPPY WE ARE IN OUR LITTLE HOUSE.
YES, MOMMA.
HOW HAPPY WE ARE.

I'LL TRY TO IGNORE THE DELIBERATE STRANGENESS OF ALL THIS...
WHY IGNORE IT? EMBRACE IT!
I DO!
THIRTY MILLION EUROS, PROFESSOR X!
I USE THESE AS TOILET PAPER.
I'M SURE I HEARD VOICES...
JUST THE PLAY, MOMMA.
DON'T SPOIL IT FOR YOURSELF BY LISTENING.
WE DID WHAT YOU ASKED, FANTOMEX– WE PROTECTED YOU FROM THE MOB, BUT WE'RE NOT IN THE HABIT OF AIDING AND ABETTING SELF-CONFESSED CRIMINAL TERRORISTS.
NO MORE "MISDIRECTION." WHAT'S HAPPENING TO OUR X-MEN IN THE CHANNEL TUNNEL?
WHAT IS WEAPON TWELVE?



"WEAPON XII IS THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF 'LIVING WEAPONS' TESTS CARRIED OUT BY THE MILITARY INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX.

"THE NEW BATCH WERE BRED LIKE FLIES IN EXPERIMENTAL TIME INCUBATORS AT SECRET LABORATORIES OUTSIDE LONDON.

"THEY HEAT TIME ITSELF UP UNTIL IT STARTS TO FLOW IN ALL DIRECTIONS AT ONCE, THEN INTRODUCE HUMAN TEST GROUPS INTO THIS PLIANT FAST-MOVING SUBSTANCE."

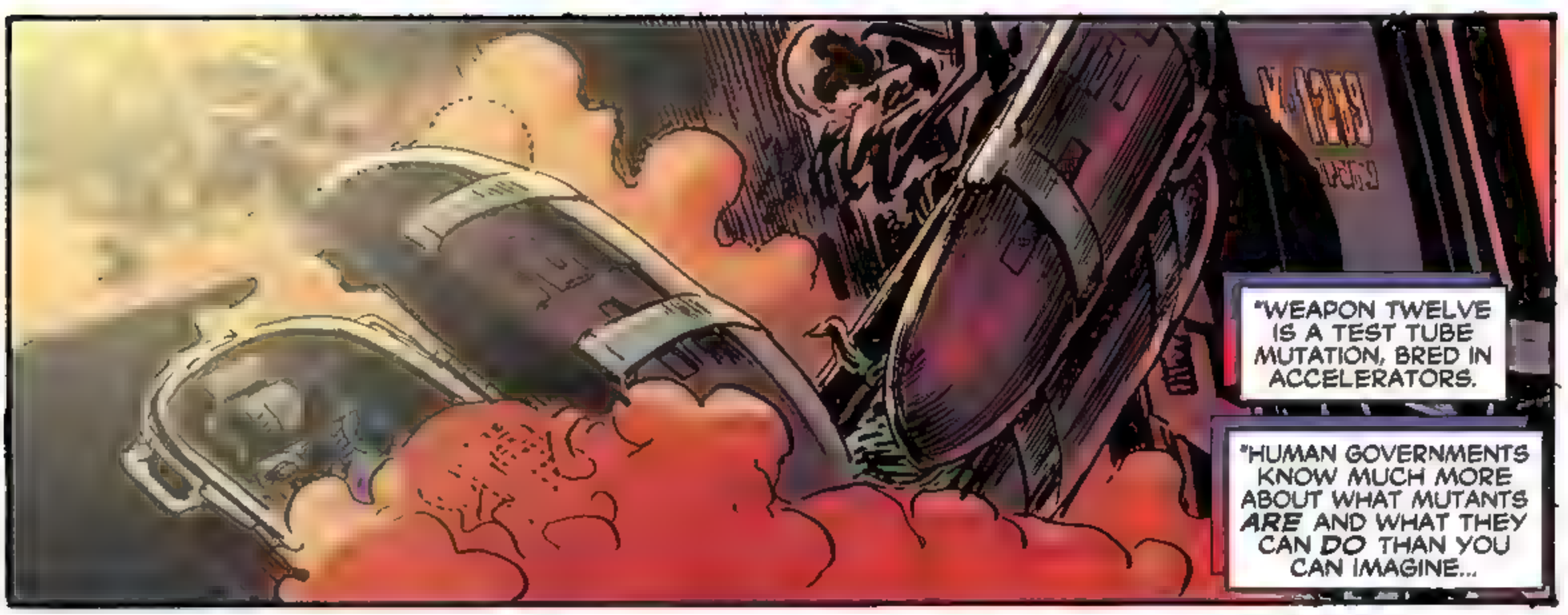
THIS IS MONET!

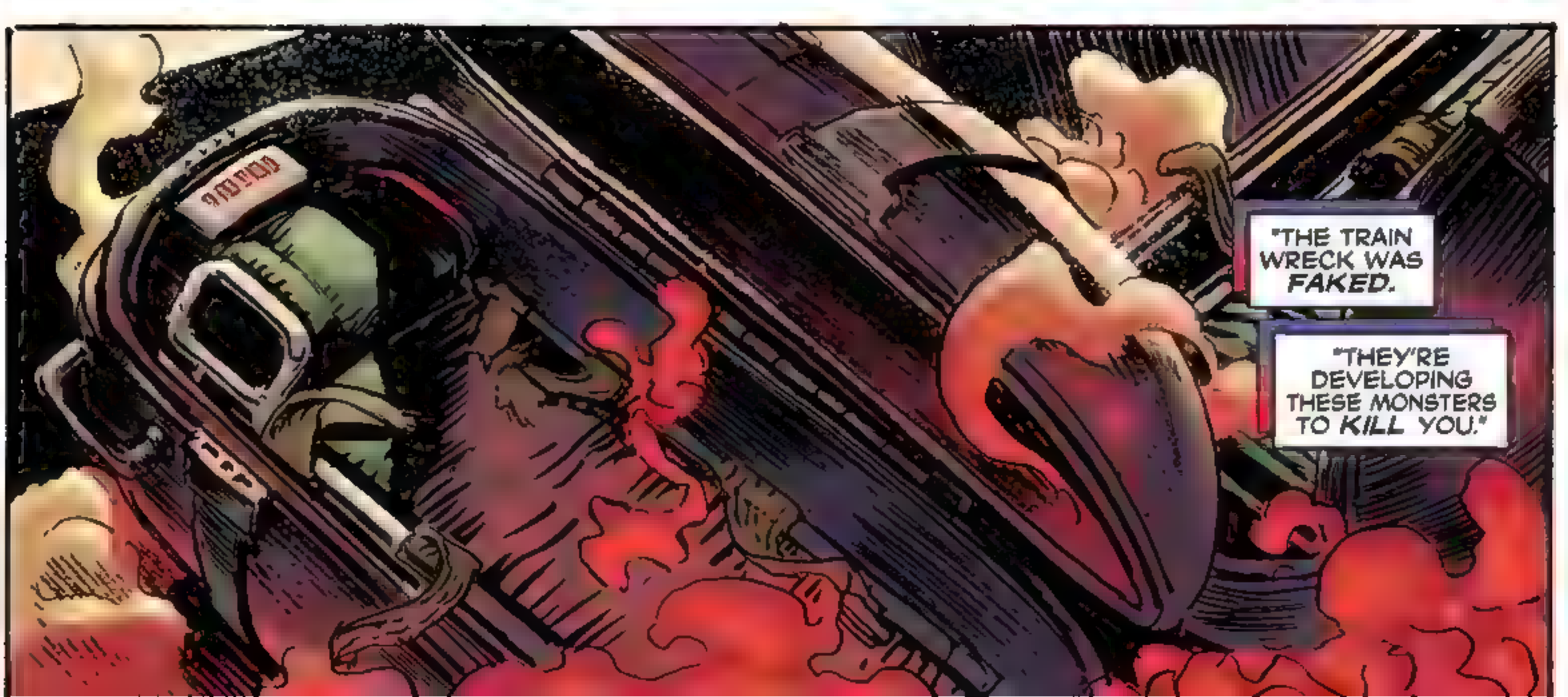
WHERE IS EVERYONE?

"WEAPON XII IS HUMANKIND'S LATEST ANSWER TO THE MUTANT THREAT, PROFESSOR X."

"I'M SURE YOU'VE HEARD THE WHISPERS FROM THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY, PROFESSOR--RUMORS CONCERNING THE DISCOVERY OF AN *EXTINCTION SEQUENCE* IN THE HUMAN GENOTYPE...

"...'ARTIFICIAL EVOLUTION' IS HUMAN SCIENCE'S ALTERNATIVE TO INBUILT SELF-DESTRUCTION.
"IMAGINE HUMAN GENETIC MATERIAL CRUDELY *SPLICED* WITH ADAPTIVE SENTINEL MICROTECHNOLOGY.
"NOW RUN THE MIX THROUGH HALF A MILLION *YEARS* OF CYBORG MUTATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN LESS THAN *EIGHTEEN* MONTHS.


"WEAPON TWELVE IS A TEST TUBE MUTATION, BRED IN ACCELERATORS.
"HUMAN GOVERNMENTS KNOW MUCH MORE ABOUT WHAT MUTANTS *ARE* AND WHAT THEY CAN *DO* THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE...


"THE TRAIN WRECK WAS *FAKED.*
"THEY'RE DEVELOPING THESE MONSTERS TO *KILL* YOU."

I SHOULD KNOW-- I SNEAKED ON BOARD TO STEAL THE DOSSIER AND FOUND MYSELF IN THE MIDDLE OF A RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OPERATION.

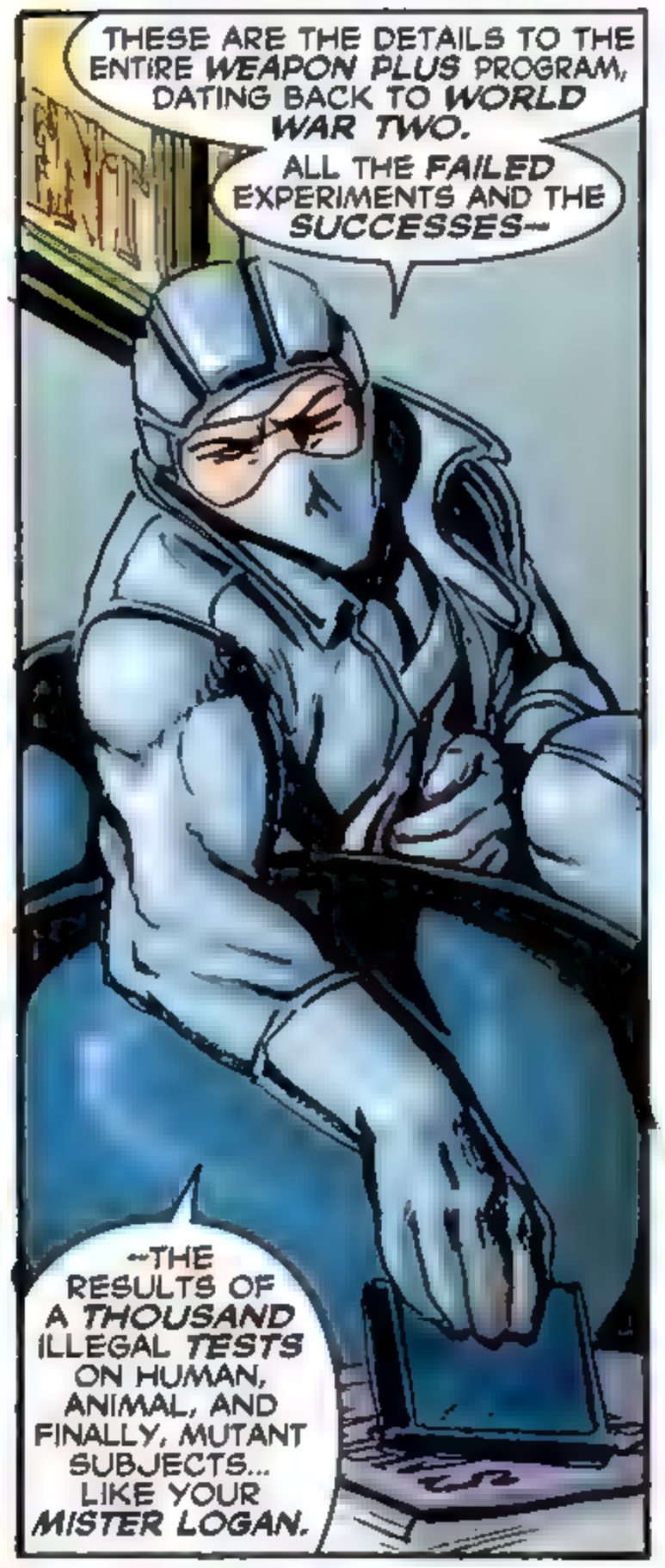
THEY CLOSED THE CHANNEL TUNNEL AND CREATED THE WHOLE EVENT TO FIELD TEST WEAPON TWELVE AGAINST A GROUP OF TRAINED MUTANTS.
BEING ABLE TO CONVENIENTLY ELIMINATE A NUMBER OF PERSISTENT ASYLUM SEEKERS WHO'VE BEEN TRYING TO SMUGGLE THEMSELVES THROUGH THE CHANNEL TUNNEL INTO BRITAIN IS SIMPLY A PERK.
I HAVE THE WHOLE DIRTY DOSSIER ON DISC.
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE, THE DATA'S FOR SALE, OF COURSE.

OR YOU COULD GIFT IT TO THE XAVIER INSTITUTE.

I'M A MUTANT WITH NO SCRUPLES, PROFESSOR.
YOUR PERSONAL FORTUNE WAS VALUED AT THREE POINT FIVE BILLION DOLLARS.
YOUR TEACHING STAFF INCLUDES AT LEAST THREE MILLIONAIRES...

...I'D PREFER TO SELL.

BOTH MUTANTS AND HUMANS *SUFFERED* IN THESE MONSTROUS EXPERIMENTS.
ONE OF OUR CLOSE FRIENDS WAS DESIGNATED *WEAPON X* IN THE PROGRAM AND TORTURED...
BOO-*HOO.*
I'LL SUFFER, TOO, IF I DON'T GET A *MONEY TRANSFUSION* INTO MY BLEEDING, WOUNDED BANK ACCOUNT.
AND IT'S WEAPON *TEN,* NOT X.


THESE ARE THE DETAILS TO THE ENTIRE *WEAPON PLUS* PROGRAM, DATING BACK TO *WORLD WAR TWO.*
ALL THE *FAILED* EXPERIMENTS AND THE *SUCCESSES*--
--THE RESULTS OF A *THOUSAND* ILLEGAL *TESTS* ON HUMAN, ANIMAL, AND FINALLY, MUTANT SUBJECTS... LIKE YOUR *MISTER LOGAN.*

ALL YOURS FOR... ONE BILLION.
I'D BE INTERESTED TO SEE HOW MUCH MONEY YOU'RE WILLING TO SACRIFICE FOR *IDEALS.*

SO WHAT DID THEY *TELL* YOUR RESCUE TEAM? *"HIGH LEVEL GENETIC EMERGENCY"?*
"INNOCENT PEOPLE IN DANGER..."
...THEY KNOW EXACTLY WHAT *BUTTONS* TO PRESS, DON'T THEY?

HUMANS MAY NOT HAVE SPECIAL EXTRA SENSES, BUT THEY'RE VERY SKILLED *MANIPULATORS* AND THEY KNOW HOW TO MAKE *WEAPONS.*
SEE HOW GOOD THEY ARE AT TURNING YOUR ALTRUISTIC NATURE INTO A TOOL TO DESTROY YOU?

WE *NEED* THAT DATA! WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST!

ACCORDING TO YOUR STORY, SIX X-CORP MEMBERS COULD BE INVOLVED IN A FIGHT FOR THEIR LIVES *RIGHT NOW!*

SIX *HUNDRED,* IF WE COUNT MADROX THE MULTIPLE MAN.

I'VE READ THE WEAPON XII FILE.

I KNOW *EXACTLY* WHAT I'M UP AGAINST.

THEN *TELL* US!

ARE YOU DRIVEN ENTIRELY BY *SELF-INTEREST?*

I'D LIKE TO ANSWER ALL OF YOUR QUESTIONS, PROFESSOR, BUT I HAVE TO REMOVE SEVERAL *BULLETS* FROM MY BODY.

I PREFER TO *SELF-OPERATE,* SO I'M PUTTING MYSELF INTO A STATE OF LIGHT AUTO-HYPNOSIS WHILE MY BODY WORKS ON ITSELF.

THERE'S WINE AND A SELECTION OF FINE FRENCH CHEESES IN THE FRIDGE... MAKE YOURSELVES AT HOME.

THIS WON'T TAKE LONG.

UNNNHH..
...CCRZZZ... IS ANYONE THERE ..? THIS IS DARKSTAR...

EVERYBODY TRY TO CALM DOWN!
THE EXIT'S BACK THIS WAY!
WHAT ARE THEY SAYING?
DON'T LET THEM TOUCH YOU!
THINGS IN THE TUNNEL!

DON'T LET THEM TOUCH YOU!
WHAT IS IT?
WHY DID SIRYN SCREAM AT ME?
OH GOD, WHAT'S HAPPENING?

ARE THERE ANY X-MEN ONLINE? TEAM?
TEAM-- THIS IS DARKSTAR!
I... I JUST REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS AND THERE'S SOMETHING COMING DOWN THE TRACK... PEOPLE... ANIMALS...

CAN ANYONE HEAR ME?
DON'T LET THEM TOUCH YOU!
DON'T LET THEM TOUCH YOU!

I DON'T WANT TO DIE...

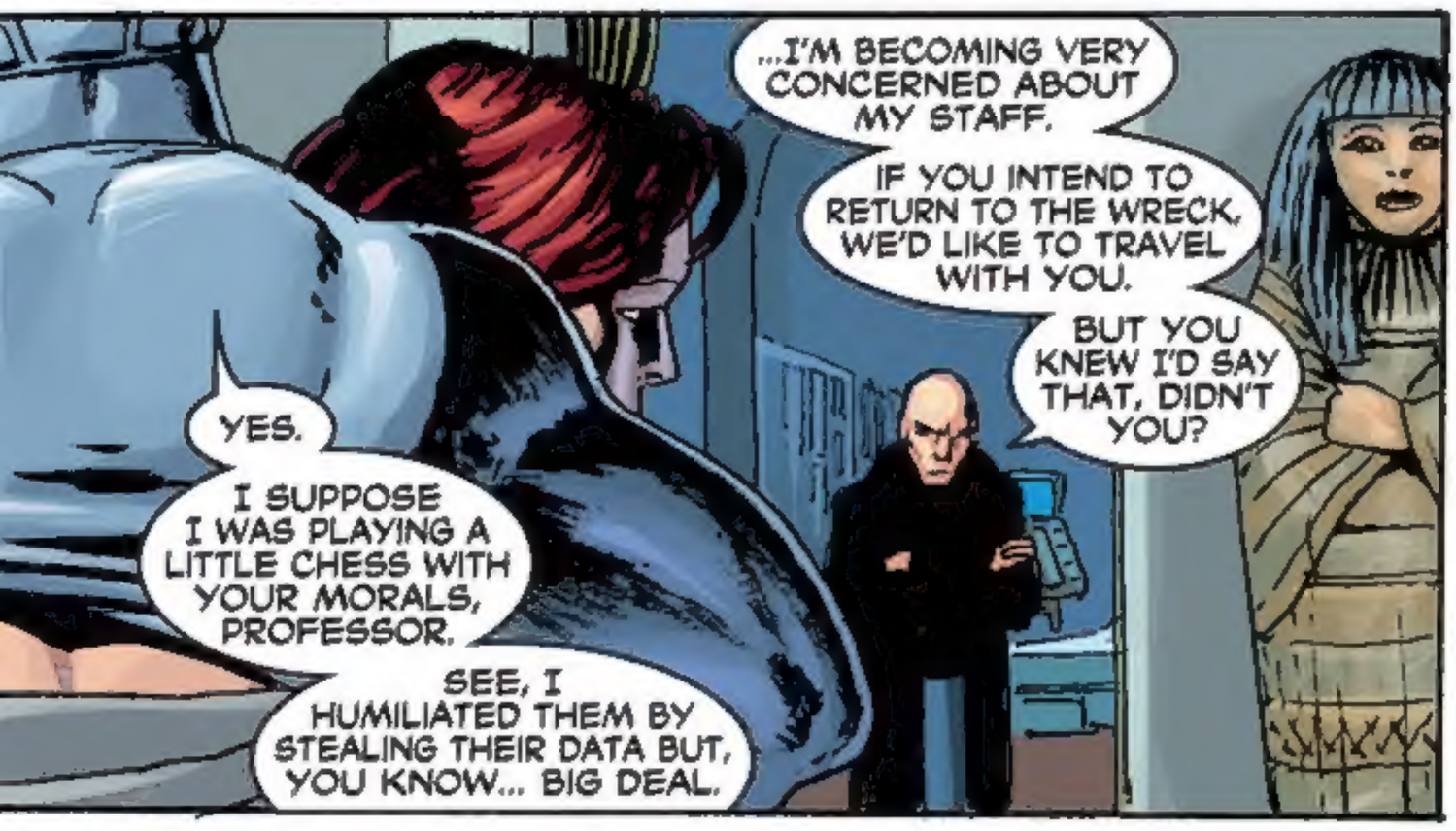
MOMMA STILL THINKS WE LIVE IN OUR FAMILY HOME OUTSIDE *MARSEILLES.*

I DIDN'T HAVE THE HEART TO TELL HER THE HOUSE WAS *DEMOLISHED* FOUR YEARS AGO, SO I JUST *RECREATED* IT HERE IN THE MOUNTAINS.

STRANGE, I'VE NEVER MET A REAL *X-MAN* BEFORE.

I'VE ALWAYS MANAGED TO STAY JUST UNDER THE RADAR, STEALING A *VAN GOGH* HERE, A PRICELESS ALIEN ARTIFACT THERE.

FANTOMEX...


YES.
I SUPPOSE I WAS PLAYING A LITTLE CHESS WITH YOUR MORALS, PROFESSOR.
SEE, I HUMILIATED THEM BY STEALING THEIR DATA BUT, YOU KNOW... BIG DEAL.
...I'M BECOMING VERY CONCERNED ABOUT MY STAFF.
IF YOU INTEND TO RETURN TO THE WRECK, WE'D LIKE TO TRAVEL WITH YOU.
BUT YOU KNEW I'D SAY THAT, DIDN'T YOU?

I WANT TO MAKE A MUCH BOLDER STATEMENT AGAINST MUTANT VIVISECTION.
WEAPON TWELVE WAS BRED TO EXTERMINATE-- HIS SURVIVAL TRAITS ARE A PRODUCT OF MAN/MACHINE FUSION.

I MAY BE BRIMMING WITH SELF-CONFIDENCE... BUT EVEN I HAVE MY LIMITS. ON THE OTHER HAND...
...WITH TWO OF THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL MINDS RIDING SHOTGUN, I THINK I CAN END THE EXPERIMENT.
SO HERE'S ANOTHER DIFFICULT ETHICAL DECISION FOR YOU TO MAKE...

...I'LL HELP SAVE THE LIVES OF YOUR X-MEN AND EVERYTHING ELSE IN WEAPON TWELVE'S VICINITY...
...IF YOU TWO PACIFISTS HELP ME KILL HIM.

DON'T SPEND TOO MUCH TIME DECIDING.
WEAPON XII MUST DIE.
TO BE CONTINUED!